

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LIINAMAA GOVERNMENT ORGANIZES

REF: A) HELSINKI 1283; B) HELSINKI 1289

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER KEIJO LIINAMAA'S NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS LARGELY PICKED BY PRESIDENT KEKKONEN, HAS FORMALLY DECIDED ON THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN ITS VARIOUS MINISTRIES AND MADE A NUMBER OF OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL DECISIONS TO ENABLE IT TO GET ON WITH ITS BUSINESS. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE ITS APPOINTMENT JUNE 13 IT HAS BECOME CLEAR THAT PRIME MINISTER KEIJO LIINAMAA'S NEW "EXPERT" OR "CIVIL SERVANTS" GOVERNMENT IS REALLY VERY CLOSE TO A "PRESIDENTIAL" GOVERNMENT (SEE HELSINKI 1213). WE ARE TOLD BY A MEMBER OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT THAT MOST OF THE NEW MINISTERS ARE THE PERSONAL CHOICES OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND THAT THE MUCH GREATER THAN USUAL POLITICAL COLORATION OF THIS "EXPERT" GOVERNMENT IS NO ACCIDENT. PARTIES DID NOT SUGGEST NAMES TO THE
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PRESIDENT, BUT AS INDIVIDUALS WERE TAPPED FOR SERVICE

THEY CHECKED WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES FOR A "GO-AHEAD" TO ACCEPT. REPORTEDLY THE COMMUNISTS REFUSED TO ALLOW FORMER PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE (SKDL) MP ANNA-LIISA TEIKSO TO SERVE IN THE LIINAMAA GOVERNMENT.

3. LIINAMAA CABINET HELD ORGANIZING MEETING ON JUNE 17 AND TOOK NUMBER OF DECISIONS REGARDING ITS INTERNAL ORGANIZATION. THE MOST IMPORTANT MATTERS WERE THE SORTING OUT OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DIVIDED MINISTRIES, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE TRADITIONAL FINANCIAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

4. MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES: AT GOVERNMENT'S INITIAL PRESS CONFERENCE, PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT IN CABINET DEPARTMENTS WITH TWO MINISTERS, BOTH WILL BE OF EQUAL RANK WITH NEITHER BEING CONSIDERED AS DEPUTY TO THE OTHER. A) IN ADDITION TO LEADING THE GOVERNMENT, PRIME MINISTER KEIJO LIINAMAA (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) WILL ACT AS ONE OF THE MINISTERS IN CHARGE OF THE OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE. THE OTHER "CHANCERY MINISTER" IS PEKKA AHTIALA (NON-POLITICAL) WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY PLANNING AS WELL AS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY. B) IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HEIKKI KOSKI (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) WILL HANDLE THE TRADITIONAL FUNCTIONS SUCH AS OVERSIGHT OF POLICE AND SECURITY SERVICES. AARNO STROMMER (CLOSE TO THE CENTER PARTY) OCCUPIES THE NEWLY-CREATED MINISTERIAL POSITION AT INTERIOR AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSING MATTERS, INCLUDING CITY PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION, AS WELL AS BEING IN CHARGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY. C) CHANGES IN THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY, IN COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, ARE LARGELY SEMANTIC. THE FIRST-LISTED MINISTER ARVO RYTKONEN (OFFICIALLY -- BUT ALSO CLOSE TO CENTER PARTY) (NON-POLITICAL) WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN TRADE. THE OTHER MINISTER JORMA UITTO (NON-POLITICAL, BUT FORMERLY SKDL), IS SOMETIMES REFERRED TO SIMPLY AS INDUSTRY MINISTER. ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL TASKS WILL BE OVERSEEING THE PRICE CONTROL MECHANISM.

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HE ALSO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSUMER INFORMATION, REGISTRATION OF COMPANIES, THE PATENTOFFICE, ETC. D) IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOLLOWS THE PATTERN OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. HEIKKI TUOMINEN (NON-POLITICAL) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BUDGET WHEREAS TEUVO VARJAS (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) IS THE SO-CALLED "PAY MINISTER," HANDLING WAGES AND SALARIES, THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICAL OFFICE, THE STATE PRINTING

OFFICE AND THE MINT. E) THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH IS ALSO DIVIDED IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER. ALLI LAHTINEN (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) HANDLES HEALTH CARE, LABOR SAFETY, PENSION POLICY PLANNING, SOCIAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS OF THE MINISTRY. GRELS TEIR (SWEDISH PEOPLES' PARTY) WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PENSIONS AND SOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS. TEIR HAS ALSO BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE GOVERNMENT'S NORDIC COOPERATION MINISTER. F) THE REMAINING MINISTERS WILL DIRECT DEPARTMENTS CORRESPONDING TO THOSE IN THE PREVIOUS CABINET WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PROFESSOR LAURI POSTI (NON-POLITICAL) WHO AS EDUCATION MINISTER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. OLAVI MATTILA (CLOSE TO CENTER PARTY) IS IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; ESA TIMONEN (CENTER) OF COMMUNICATIONS; ERKKI HUURTAMO (CONSERVATIVE) OF DEFENSE; VEIKKO IHAMUOTILA (CENTER) OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY; PROFESSOR INKERI ANTILA (LIBERAL) OF JUSTICE; AND ILMO PAANANEN (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) OF LABOR.

5. GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES: IN ACCORDANCE WITH FINNISH GOVERNMENT CUSTOM ONE OF THE FIRST ORDERS OF BUSINESS WAS THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CABINET COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FINANCE. ONLY POLITICALLY "RELIABLE" MINISTERS ARE APPOINTED TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (NO COMMUNIST HAS EVER BEEN APPOINTED.) THUS THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE: LIINAMAA, MATTILA, TEIR, RYTKONEN, HUURTAMO, AND KOSKI. ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE ARE: LIINAMAA, TUOMINEN, VARJAS, TIMONEN, AND IHAMUOTILA.

6. ANOTHER DECISION THE CABINET MADE AT ITS JUNE 17 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING WAS THAT EACH MINISTER COULD APPOINT AN ASSISTANT TO SERVE AS HIS "SECRETARY." THESE ARE THE POSTS OCCUPIED BY THE "POLITICAL SECRETARIES" IN THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. IT WAS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT THAT ONLY THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD HAVE A "NON-POLITICAL" SECRETARY, BUT THE TEMPTATION OF THE OTHER MINISTERS TO HAVE THEIR OWN "MAN-FRIDAY" WAS IRRESISTABLE. NOT ALL HAVE BEEN SELECTED. THE FORMER GOVERNMENT'S INFORMATION CHIEF, ALEC AALTO, HAS BEEN SERVING AS LIINAMAA'S SECRETARY SINCE LAST FRIDAY (WHEN HIS PRESENT RESPONSIBILITIES END AALTO WILL BECOME VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS OF THE FINNISH STATE OIL CORPORATION, NESTE OY). FOREIGN MINISTER MATTILA AND FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER RYTKONEN HAVE BOTH PICKED FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS AS THEIR SECRETARIES. JUHANI SUOMI WILL SERVE MATTILA AND MATTI

LIUKKONEN WILL WORK FOR RYTKONEN.

7. EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT FURTHER BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
ON NEW MINISTERS BY AIRGRAM.
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